

# NATIONALS IN A NUTSHELL

## The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Modern Languages National 4

Modern Languages National 4 is offered in the following: Cantonese, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Mandarin (Simplified or Traditional), Spanish, Urdu

MODERN  
LANGUAGES  
LANGUAGES

NATIONAL  
4

2  
UNITS

### UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGES

Receptive skills – listening and reading in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

### USING LANGUAGES

Productive skills – talking and writing in contexts of society, learning, employability, culture

+  
ADDED  
VALUE  
UNIT

### ADDED VALUE UNIT: MODERN LANGUAGES ASSIGNMENT

## What skills will my child develop?

- reading, listening, talking and writing in a modern language
- the ability to understand and use a modern language
- applying knowledge of a modern language
- applying grammatical knowledge
- plan, research and apply straightforward language skills
- the development of cultural awareness
- develop creative and critical thinking
- develop literacy skills and reflect on how this relates to English
- develop an understanding of how language works
- using different media effectively for learning and communication
- using straightforward language to communicate ideas and information
- explore the interconnected nature of languages
- analysis and evaluation eg defining the purpose of a text
- dictionary skills



## WHAT WILL MY CHILD EXPERIENCE DURING THE COURSE?

- Active and independent learning through self and peer evaluations, setting targets, using feedback
- A blend of classroom approaches including group and class discussion, game-based learning, websites, interactive tasks using IT, video conferencing, audio recordings
- Collaborative learning: working with others in group or partner activities eg paired reading, 'give one, get one' and jigsaw activities; holding debates; links with other curricular areas
- Space for personalisation and choice: learners will choose the topic for their Added Value Unit (Assignment)
- Applying learning
- Embedding literacy skills: researching and presenting information; evaluating; discussing; listening; talking; reading; writing.

## ASSESSMENT

- To gain National 4, learners must pass all Units
- Units are assessed as pass or fail by the school/centre (following SQA external quality assurance to meet national standards)
- Evidence of assessment of reading, listening, talking and writing will be required. A portfolio may be prepared
- The Assignment will require learners to investigate and report on a chosen topic with an oral presentation and questions.

## DISCUSSION IN THE CLASSROOM

Our school is 'twinned' with a school in France and we work together to put information about where we live onto a blog. Our class divided into small groups and each group took a topic to research: population, local activities, types of homes, school life. Pupils in the French school researched the same topics. We posted our information in French and they posted theirs in English. We followed it up with a series of questions and answers, so we all understood the similarities and the differences in our lives.

National 4 progresses onto National 5

For more detailed course information:

SQA: Modern Languages National 4: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47409.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47409.html)

Education Scotland: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nationalqualifications/index.asp)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile:

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)



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